

The Native American.

VOL. I.

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MEMORIAL OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Washington, January 1, 1838.

Sir: At a general meeting of the Native American Association of this city, held on Tuesday, the 29th ultimo, the honor of communicating the enclosed copy of their unanimous resolution, confiding the accompanying memorial to your charge, was conferred on the undersigned.

Without professing any knowledge of your sentiments on the subject of the memorial, the Association, of which we are the organs, rely upon your known equity and readiness to comply in your public capacity with the proper wishes of any of your fellow citizens; and we trust that the tone and temper of the paper placed in your hands, as well as the reasonableness of its prayer, will commend it to your favorable consideration, and ensure for it such support from you as may be consistent with a just sense of public duty.

With great respect,

Your fellow-countrymen,

HENRY M. MORFIT,

President Native American Association,
Washington City.

HENRY J. BRENT,
JOSEPH H. BRADLEY,
B. K. MORSELL,
GEORGE SWEENEY,
To the Hon. JOHN M. PATTON.

Washington, January 5, 1838.

Sir: I enclose a copy of the resolutions passed by the Native American Association at their last meeting, requesting a committee, in the names of its members, to present their memorial to the House of Representatives, through you.

The Association is very desirous that this petition should be acted on as soon as possible, that they may have the credit of being the first to appear before the National Legislature in this behalf.

A very powerful appeal is expected to be made shortly from New York, and you will greatly oblige us if our memorial is presented on next Monday.

Respectfully, your fellow-countryman,

HENRY M. MORFIT.

To the Hon. JOHN M. PATTON.

NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Pursuant to notice, the Native American Association met on the 26th ult., to receive and consider the report of the committee appointed to draw up a memorial to Congress on the subject of the laws of naturalization, and for other purposes. H. J. Brent, Esq., in the absence of the President, was called to the chair, when George Sweeney, Esq., on behalf of said committee, made a report.

Mr. A. H. QUINCY offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the report of the committee appointed to draw up a memorial to Congress, on the subject of the laws of naturalization, be adopted, and signed by the President and Secretaries.

Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Doctor T. D. JONES,

Resolved, That—be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to wait on the honorable N. P. Tallmadge, of the Senate of the United States, from New York, and the honorable J. M. Patton, of the House of Representatives of the United States, from Virginia, and respectfully request that said members will take charge of the said memorial, and bring it before their respective bodies at their earliest convenience; and to give it their support; and to promote the objects of the memorialists, so far as comports with their sense of public duty.

It was moved that the Chair fill up the blank with the names of three gentlemen. Agreed to.

In compliance, the Chair appointed Joseph H. Bradley, B. K. Morsell, and George Sweeney, Esquires.

On motion of J. C. BRENT, Esq.,

Resolved, That a list of the names of the members of the Association be drawn off, and that said list accompany, or be appended to, the memorial when presented.

On motion of J. BENNETT, Esq.,

Resolved, That the publishers of the National Intelligencer, Globe, and Madisonian, be requested to publish said memorial, with the proceedings of this meeting in relation thereto, in their respective newspapers, after the presentation thereof to Congress.

On motion,

Resolved, That the President of the Association, and the chairman of this meeting, be added to the committee to present the memorial to Congress.

And then the meeting adjourned.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

The memorial of more than nine hundred citizens of the United States, associated together at the city of Washington, under the name of the "Native American Association,"

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That your memorialists have been taught that it is at all times the right, and sometimes the duty, of every citizen of this free community to address to those who have been set over him in authority the language of complaint, either upon matters which immediately affect him individually, or which concern the general welfare of the whole people.

Separated, as your memorialists are, from the great body of their fellow citizens, by the wise forecast of the illustrious framers of the constitution, and by their own voluntary surrender of many of the inestimable privileges that distinguish a free and exalted people, they view the political sacrifices they have made for the benefit and security of the National Legislature as giving them the strongest claims to the attention of your honorable body, and humbly conceive that, necessarily standing aloof from the political passions which agitate the people of the States, they be-

come better qualified than others to view distinctly, and form a calm, if not a sound judgment, of the causes which threaten the peace and welfare of the Union.

Your memorialists, therefore, filled with sentiments of the most devoted attachment to their native country, its constitution, its laws and institutions, venture to appear before you on a subject which is viewed by them as of vital consequence, and claiming the exercise of your wise and timely interposition.

In framing the Constitution of the United States, it was deemed proper to clothe Congress with the power theretofore exercised by the several States of the confederacy, to enact laws for the naturalization of foreigners. It was wisely foreseen that the prudent and cautious exercise of such a power would add to the physical strength of the new republic, whose infant but Herculean energies had not yet recovered from the exhaustion of a long and toilsome struggle for freedom and independence; attract to our shores men of skill and knowledge in the mechanic arts, then existing here but to a very limited extent, or in a rude and imperfect degree; and draw from foreign countries the capital necessary for the trade and commerce essential to our future prosperity. But it was not, for it could not have been, anticipated by the sages who framed the constitution, or by the people who established it, "to secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity," that this great power would be so used as to place a large portion of the power of this Government in the hands of adventurers from every clime, before they could have time to acquire a knowledge of our language, much less before they could have learned the first principles of a republican government.

Under monarchical governments, the duty of the people is simple and easily defined. It is comprised in two words: "to obey." In a republic, especially such a republic as this, the duties, rights, and obligations of the citizen are multifarious and complex, and require many years of study, contemplation, and practice, to comprehend and properly appreciate them. They form the objects of inquiry in childhood, the lessons for study in our schools, the questions for debate in our juvenile societies, and the topics of conversation in our domestic and social circles. Each one feels that he is a part of the whole, and equal, in all respects, to any other individual part—for the governed of to-day may become the governors of to-morrow. Those whose first lessons in legislation were learned in the simple municipal legislatures of obscure villages or towns, are often seen in the most august assembly in the world, and listened to by an enlightened auditory of their fellow citizens, while the streams of eloquence and wisdom are flowing from their lips. And why is it so? It is because the people of the United States understand the nature and appreciate the objects of their Government. Because they examine with care, and scrutinize with jealousy, the pretensions of each other, and form just judgments of the qualifications of the candidates for the offices provided under the constitution. Because, having no country but this, all their affections are centred here; having no home but this, all their aspirations are breathed most devoutly for the perpetuation of this, their last and only hope.

Can this be so with the foreigner? Worn out by the oppressions he has endured, or by the toils he has undergone in his native country, or impelled by his wandering propensities, he abandons his native home to seek a new one here, with all his foreign habits, prejudices, and predilections, "lumbering at his back." Can it be believed that he can disburden himself so completely of these, and have so learned to fulfill the duties of a citizen of the United States, in the very short term of five years, as to be qualified to exercise all the political privileges of one? Can a foreigner be supposed capable of arriving at that perfection of political knowledge by a sort of intuition, which a native of the soil must be long years of habit, study, and instruction in acquiring? Surely it cannot be. And, if it were even possible, is it just to your own native citizens, to those "who have borne the heat of the day, and the burden thereof," to extend all your dear-bought rights to those who have done nothing to merit them?

But your memorialists complain not merely of the manifest injustice of dividing with foreign adventurers and exiles the dearest privileges of the native citizens of the United States, and thereby divesting them of a portion of their natural rights; they fear that the rapid and extraordinary increase of the foreign population, and the facility with which that population acquire the rights of citizenship, will, ere long, expose the institutions of the country to serious danger. Already many of our most important elections have been swayed and decided by the votes of foreigners; large majorities of whom were notoriously ignorant of the qualifications of the candidates for whom they voted, and of the merits of the questions decided by their suffrages. The facility with which we have, but too often, seen foreigners banded together by artful demagogues, who flatter their prejudices, minister to their vices, and court their aid, for the attainment of some temporary advantage in the political contests which now, and must in all future time, agitate the people of this free country, leads to the apprehension that the same population, increasing,

as it must, under our present system, to a prodigious amount, may eventually be imbedded by some ambitious and unscrupulous leader, and used as the instruments of the overthrow of this now happy and envied republic. The experience of all past times should not be disregarded. The liberties of Rome were not seriously endangered until the policy of her ambitious chieftains introduced large bodies of armed foreigners amongst them, and clothed them with many of the privileges, if not the dignity, of Roman citizens. And the people of England are now mainly indebted for the large share of liberty they enjoy, and the restrained and limited power of their monarch, to the ever-watchful jealousy of their bold and sturdy ancestors, and their resolute and unflinching resistance to the admission of foreigners to the immunities of English subjects.

This paper would be swelled to an inconvenient size were your memorialists to cite from the histories of other nations the numerous proofs with which they abound, of the advantages resulting from the strict observance of this great principle of self-protection, and the injuries suffered from a disregard of the obvious course dictated by the lessons of true wisdom and experience. Washington, pre-eminent in all moral and political virtue—the leader of our armies in war, and the director and guide of our councils in peace, whose heart overflowed with universal benevolence, and whose hospitable doors were ever open to receive and shelter the stranger from foreign climes, as widely as for his own friends and countrymen, has left on record a solemn warning of the fate that awaits the beloved institutions which, in the hands of Providence, he was the chief instrument in establishing, if the admission of foreigners to office, and the elective franchise, were not restrained and guarded by careful legislation and the sleepless vigilance of the people. Jefferson, the patriot, philosopher, and sage, the friend and chosen counsellor of Washington, lived long enough to repudiate the error of his early and enthusiastic sentiments on this subject, and to add the testimony of his later experience and observation to the warning voice of his illustrious predecessor. It is too well known to be repeated here, that the opinions of all, or nearly all, of the wise and distinguished men whose counsels ruled the destinies of this republic in the earliest days of its present Government, coincided, soon or late, with those of the eminent men here named on the subject of this memorial.

It would not become your memorialists to question the purity or the wisdom of those who enacted the laws of naturalization, as they now exist. Of the one, we have ample testimony in the respect and honor they reaped in their labors for the advancement of the interests of their country; and however the other may have been viewed at the period of the enactments of those laws, it is humbly believed that a fit time has arrived when they should be carefully revised and amended, or altogether repealed.

As intimately connected with the subject of the naturalization laws, your memorialists respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to one of deep concern to the welfare of their fellow citizens, and to the honor and dignity of the Government itself.

The nations of Europe, by the cessation of war amongst themselves, and by other causes, resulting from the nature of their governments and institutions, but which it would not be proper here to discuss, have, of late years, been burdened with a vast increase of pauperism and crime. To diminish this burden, various plans have in turn occupied the anxious reflections of the ablest and wisest statesmen of Europe. None have appeared to them so practicable and effectual as the transportation of vast multitudes from their overgrown population to foreign countries; and no foreign country presents so easy an access to them as the United States. Therefore, without imputing to them a more unworthy motive, or sinister and base designs, they have chosen to make this free and happy land the receptacle of those whose crimes have rendered them dangerous, or who have become, through want and destitution, expensive and burdensome to the States in which they were born, to which they owe their natural allegiance, and from which they are entitled to claim shelter and protection.

Your memorialists will not overload this paper with any statement of the numbers of paupers who are at some seasons cast upon our shores in a condition of utter destitution and helplessness; nor can they refer your honorable body to the official records in the Executive Departments of the Government for any certain or satisfactory information; those reported at the custom-houses, in conformity to law, bearing, it is believed, but a small proportion to the vast multitudes who are smuggled into the country upon our extensive seaboard and across our inland borders. Those members of your honorable body who reside in the large cities of the Atlantic States can bear witness to the intolerable burdens imposed upon our own industrious population to provide for the maintenance of the poor and destitute of other countries. Foreigners come to us, for the most part, without a knowledge of any of the mechanic arts, without money, clothing, or provisions; and the humanity of our citizens is grievously taxed to preserve the unfortunate victims of the heartless policy of their own governments and natural protectors from perishing in our streets and highways.

The abandoned portion of their population, whose lives have been spent in the practice of every low and degrading vice, and whose confinement in the jails of Europe would be too expensive to the state whose laws they have violated, have, in many instances, been shipped off to us, that they might exercise anew their vicious propensities, by plundering our unsuspecting people. And even, in some cases, persons convicted of assassination, and other high crimes against the state, have been spared the last punishment of the law, upon the express condition of their adopting these United States as the places of their future and permanent abode.

Your memorialists would not do justice to themselves, were they to close this paper without disclaiming, most emphatically, the wish to shut the door against reputable foreigners, who voluntarily seek here a free, peaceful, and happy home. They desire that this blessed land shall continue for all time to be, in a fair and a proper sense, "an asylum for the oppressed of all nations." They are not to be reminded that all—all without exception—of the native citizens of the United States, are themselves descended, mediately or immediately, from a foreign stock. Around, and in the midst of them, your memorialists see foreigners whom they gladly greet as friends and as companions in the social circle. To such your memorialists would say, in the language of the inspired volume: "Come to us all you who are weary and heavy laden, and we will refresh you;" but they would say also: "Come to us and be at rest; mingle not in our political affairs; be content to be governed, and seek not to govern those who entertain you, and afford you shelter and protection; exercise freely, and enjoy, without the fear of molestation, every religious and social right, but expect not to be invested with political privileges, at least until the length of your residence shall afford a sufficient guaranty that you have become fully acquainted with the nature and extent of the obligations of an American citizen, and may be safely intrusted with their exercise."

Your memorialists, therefore, being deeply impressed with the soundness and great importance of the principles they have thus imperfectly enforced, respectfully pray that your honorable body will take the subject-matter of their memorial into consideration, and pass an act to repeal the acts now in force, providing for the naturalization of foreigners; or so to modify them, as in your wisdom may seem best calculated to secure to the native citizens of the United States the full enjoyment of the privileges and rights which they are justly entitled to under the constitution thereof; and, also, to make ample provisions by law, for the protection of the United States from any future influx of foreign paupers and convicts.

And your memorialists, in general meeting, have directed that this application should be signed by the President and Secretaries of the Association, and the names of the members be annexed thereto; it is therefore presented in this form, from

Your fellow-countrymen,

HENRY M. MORFIT,

President of the N. A. Association,
Washington City.

HENRY J. BRENT, Correspondg Secretary.
T. D. JONES, Recording Secretary.

EGYPT.

FROM BUCKINGHAM'S LECTURES.

Alexandria. This is the principal seaport of Egypt, and derived its name from Alexander. The present extent of its ruins is over 15 miles in length—about twice the extent of the city of London. The habitable part of the present city of Alexandria is only about four or five miles, and the aspect is miserable in the extreme. In approaching it, the buildings present a very monotonous appearance, and the present time is but a mere shadow of its former splendor. The population amounts to about 180,000 people, composed of all varieties of the human race—Greeks, Turks, Germans, Italians, Spaniards, Portuguese, &c. &c., and the combined appearance of this place is that of a world in miniature. The sole occupation of the people is commerce; and it has extended itself to England, to America, and even around the Cape of Good Hope. The population appears to be about equally divided between Europeans and Asiatics, and the singular amalgamation of costume is worthy of remark. Here may be seen a man arrayed in the flowing garments of the Turk, with the great square-toed shoes of the Spaniard adorned with monstrous silver buckles, while he would surmount this oriental garb with the chapeau of the Frenchman, and the gold-headed cane of the English physician; thus mingling, without regard to fashion or appearance, every variety of costume in one unmeaning combination.

Rosetta and Damietta.—These two towns stand, one upon the eastern, and the other upon the western arm of the Nile. They were never extensive in size, and still retain about their original appearance. Coming upon Rosetta from the desert, the appearance is strikingly beautiful and reviving. Rising from amid the palm trees which surround the town, the spires, and minarets, and domes, and dwellings present an appearance truly enchanting; and the interior of the town is quite as agreeable, as appearances indicate from without. A wharf of 500 feet in width extends along the water side, and is continually covered with bales and boxes of merchandise, and presents as busy an aspect as the wharves of New York.

One is struck with the fidelity with which the pictures of Oriental manners and scenery are depicted in the stories of the Arabian Night's Entertainment; and, although generally regarded in the light of fabulous and wild tales, as undoubtedly the incidents themselves are, yet still the true delineation of character and scenery becomes evident

to the traveller, whether in Rosetta, Damascus, Cairo, Aleppo, or wherever he may turn himself in this portion of the world. Rosetta is strictly a commercial town, and literature and science are almost wholly unknown. Passing from thence to Damietta, we find affairs in rather a different posture. Here the French had a garrison in the time of the crusades, and still traces may be discovered of the influence of their national economy. Here are to be found civil institutions, courts of justice, &c. The civil governor is elected by the people, and literature and science have some part in the occupations of the people. Wherever Europeans have been scattered throughout the Oriental world, there may still be found traces of their civil government.

DISINTERESTEDNESS.

A man with large property died—as was supposed; but had only fallen into a trance.

Adjoining the room in which he was laid out in his grave clothes, were his heirs rejoicing over his will, and expressing their satisfaction at the decease of the old gentleman. It was at this time that he recovered and rose up. He stepped softly to the door and listened to their conversation. Having heard enough to satisfy him, he softly put on his clothes, went to the bank and drew out all his money, purchased a travelling carriage and horse, and left the country. It was not until several hours after his departure, that the heirs became aware of the defection of the corpse, but still greater was their consternation when they learned that he had carried off all his wealth with him. His wife was the most inconsolable of all, for as soon as decency permitted, she was to have wedded a fine gentleman, who overlooked her age and ugliness, in consideration of her thirds.

When he became settled in a foreign country, the dead man wrote his heirs that he could not damp their joy at his departure, by a second appearance amongst them. Their gratitude was no doubt, unbounded.

THE STUMP TAILED COW.

A JERSEY ANECDOTE.

A good many years ago, a man stole a cow from Morristown, N. J., and drove her to Philadelphia for sale. She was a common cow enough, except that she had lost her tail but about six inches. The thief, fearing that by the shortness of her tail he might be traced, had procured in some way, probably from a slaughter house, another cow's tail, which he fastened so ingeniously to the short tail, that it was not to be known that it had not regularly grown there.

As soon as the Jerseyman missed his cow, he set off for Philadelphia, thinking she would probably be carried there for sale; and it happened that when he came to the ferry, he got into the same boat that was carrying over his cow, and the fellow who stole her. As it was natural that he should have his thoughts very much upon cows, he soon began to look at this one with great attention. She was, indeed, very much like his cow, he thought. Her marks agreed wonderfully, and she had exactly the same expression of face, but then the expression of her tail was so different. It must be supposed that the new owner of the cow felt rather uncomfortable during this examination, for he soon saw that this was the person whose property he had stolen, and he was very uneasy lest he should take hold of the tail, which he looked at so continually. Upon the whole, he thought it best to divert his attention, in some way, if possible, and therefore steps up to him, and says, neighbor, that is a fine cow of mine, wont you buy her? You seem to know what a good cow is. "Oh, dear me," says the other, "I've just had a cow stolen from me." "Well," says the thief, "I'm sorry to hear they've got to stealing cattle; but I'll sell off, and you cannot better replace your loss than by buying this cow; I'll warrant she's as good as yours." "Why," says the Jerseyman, she was exactly like this one; only that she had no tail to speak of, and if this one had not such a long tail, I'd swear it was my cow." Every one now began to look at the cow's tail, but the thief stood nearer to it than any body, and taking hold of it so as just to cover the splicing with his left hand, and with a jack knife in his right, pointing to the tail, he said, "so, if this cow's tail were only this long, you'd swear she was your's!" "That I would," says the other, who began to be very much confused at the perfect resemblance to his cow, except in this one particular, when the thief, with a sudden cut of his knife, took off the tail, just about one inch above the splicing, and throwing it overboard, bloody as it was, turned to the other and said, "now swear it's your cow?" The bewilderment of the poor man was now complete; but as he had seen the tail cut off, and saw the blood trickling from it, he could, of course, lay no claim to the animal from the shortness of her tail; indeed here was a proof positive that this was not his cow, so the thief, going over with him, sold the cow, without any further fear of detection.—P. Herald.

The Rose and the Lily.—Malvini stood with her father before a lily which bloomed under a rose bush, of a delicate texture like a beam of light, the beautiful flower displayed its fragrant chalice, above hung a lovely full blown rose, which threw its reflecting glance upon the silvery leaves of the lily, and thus a mutual fragrance was imparted. "Oh! what an interesting alliance!" exclaimed Malvini, and smiling, she bent towards the flower. "It is the emblem of innocence and love," answered the father; and they remained in silence. In the mean time approached Oscar, the lover of Malvini. A blush mantled the cheeks of the fair one, even as the lustre of the rose was imparted to the lily. Then her father looked upon her and said, "Is it not true, Malvini, flowers have a countenance and language?" "For innocence and love," added Oscar.

Punishment for Swearing.—A schoolmaster, as a punishment to one of his pupils for using profane language, ordered him to take a pair of tongs and watch at a hole in the hearth till he had caught a mouse. Obedient to the command, the boy took the tongs and demurely waited for the expected visitor. Directly after, he saw a mouse peeping out of a hole to observe if danger was near. Cautiously placing a leg of the tongs on either side of the hole, he grasped the mouse, and triumphantly swinging it aloft, exclaimed, "I've got him!"